



## District 7820 Introducing Summer Family-to-Family Exchanges for 2018-2019

Short-Term Exchanges are Expected to be Popular with Students and Rotary Clubs

**ST. JOHN's, May 25, 2018** – Beginning in September 2018, District 7820 Rotary Clubs will be able to offer high school students the opportunity to participate in short term (summer) international youth exchanges. Rotary is well known for its long term (school year) exchange program, which offers students and families a safe and supportive international exchange program at a lower cost than is otherwise typical. Summer family-to-family exchanges will leverage the same Rotary framework while offering participants the option of a shorter exchange requiring less time commitment and at a lower cost.

In a **Summer Family-to-Family Exchange**, students submit an application describing their interests and preparedness for exchange. They also indicate places they would like to go. Once a student is selected, Rotary matches the student to an international student, based on factors including gender, interests and language skills. At the same time, Rotary qualifies the family via various youth protection processes.

If everything is checks out, the students and families are introduced by Rotary. They then decide if there is a good match and work out their exchange plan. Once the exchange agreement is finalized, the families book flights and prepare for the exchange. Typically, students are together for 2-4 weeks in one country and then 2-4 weeks in the other country. Rotary's support networks remain available throughout the exchange, should any issues arise.

### **Rotary's Role** is to:

- select qualified students and families;
- work with Rotary districts in other countries to match students and their families for exchange;
- follow through on numerous youth protection measures to ensure a safe and supportive exchange environment, including background checks, interviews, home inspections and parent and student training; and
- act as a local and international safety net, should any issues arise during the exchange.

### **Students' / Families' Roles** are to:

- arrange a mutually agreeable exchange, including start/end dates, travel arrangements, and what the exchange will include for e.g. travel, activities;
- pay their own exchange costs, including any travel for orientation training, travel for the exchange, and other costs as mutually agreed;
- host the matched exchange student, as agreed and as if they were family/extended family (e.g. like cousins vacationing together in each other's families)

**Rotary Clubs**, to offer this program, must be certified as complying with Rotary International and District 7820 youth protection policies and procedures for Rotary Youth Exchange programs. This requires three things:

1. Acceptance of and adherence to Rotary District 7820's Youth Protection Policy and Procedures.
2. Completion of youth protection training by the club's Youth Exchange Officer (committee chair) and Exchange Student Counsellor (assigned as a 'go-to' resource for the student and family).
3. Designation of one Rotary club member as the club's Youth Protection Officer.

**Students**, to participate in the summer exchange program must be at least 15 and no older than 19 during July-August 2019. Some countries accept only students aged 16-18, so 15 and 19 year old students are eligible but there are fewer options available. Students must also agree to Rotary's exchange rules, described in the application.

It is not necessary to speak another language to go on exchange. Many students and families from exchange partner countries speak English and there are exchanges with English-speaking countries. In the spirit of exchange though, if exchanging with a student/family who speak another language, exchange students must make conscientious efforts to acquire basic host country language skills before and during their exchange.

Summer 2019 exchange location choices are planned to include:

- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Finland
- Estonia
- U.K.
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- France
- Switzerland
- Austria
- Germany
- Poland
- Czechia
- Slovakia

Additional exchange locations will be offered in subsequent years.

**Families**, to participate, must be suitable as host families. Adult family members must complete an application/declaration, return a clear criminal record check (especially no violent, sexually based, impaired driving, or negligence offenses) and, in some provinces, return other clear checks as required. They also cannot be subject to restraining orders or similar restrictions. Rotary will also interview the family members, check references, and conduct a home inspection as part of the process of qualifying the family for exchange.

**September-December** is the information, application and selection period for summer exchanges. In September-October, sponsoring Rotary clubs will conduct information sessions in area high schools, at Interact clubs, and otherwise publicize the summer exchange program/opportunity. Applications will be accepted until October-November, with student and parent interviews conducted by the sponsor Rotary club in early/mid-November. Student selections must be completed and communicated to the District Chair before December 3.

**Student/Family and Sponsor Club Per Student Fees** for the summer exchange program are modest:

1. Student/Family Fee = \$200. The fee will be collected at application. It is fully refundable if the student is not offered a summer exchange position or if they decline. Once the offer of a summer exchange position is accepted, the fee is non-refundable. This fee covers some of the costs of the program, as well as an exchange shirt and other small items.
2. Sponsor Rotary Club Fee = \$200. The fee will be collected November 1. It is fully refundable until January 31, then 50% refundable until March 15, and then non-refundable. This fee covers some of the costs of the program, particularly orientation training costs.

**January-June** is the matching and planning period. Prospective matches are usually introduced by Rotary in early March with families making final plans by early May.

**Exchange Costs for Families** vary, with the largest expense usually the flights. Tickets must be changeable for minimal/no fees, in case a student needs to be returned home. Holiday plans are the next largest expense. Families will need to build their own budgets for the exchange they choose, but \$2500-\$4000 is a useful range.

**Insurance:** Families must purchase Rotary-approved travel insurance. The two insurers we recommend for youth exchanges, CISI-Bolduc and InsureLine, both offer 30 day coverage for \$50-\$100.



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*FOR ACTION*

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Please discuss this program within your Rotary Club so you can seek more information if needed, build budgets for the 2018-2019 Rotary Year (\$200 per exchange) and – assuming you will offer summer exchanges – be ready to promote the program beginning early September.

Please do not widely circulate this information outside your Rotary Club. Absolutely go ahead and discuss it for planning with key partners (e.g. your Interact club's teacher liaison), but there are still materials to be built to enable a properly effective launch of the program in September.

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*FOR YOUR INFORMATION*

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Attached please find two related documents:

1. DRAFT Promotional Card for 2018-2019 Summer Exchange Program
2. Fillable PDF Short-Term Exchange Program Application Form

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION*

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Thank you and best Rotary regards to you and your Club.

For more information, please contact:

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**SHORT-TERM (SUMMER) YOUTH EXCHANGE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
SUMMER YOUTH EXCHANGES**

Or Rotary District 7820 (NS, NL and PE)

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[www.Rotary7820.com/Youth](http://www.Rotary7820.com/Youth)

